

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 8 of 1875.]

## REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 20th February 1875.

THE *Ajijan Náhár* of the 22nd January complains, that canoongoes of the Native Civil Service are extremely ill-paid, and are not allowed travelling allowances. Sir Richard Temple is asked to attend to the subject.

AIJIAN NAHAR,  
January 22nd, 1875.

2. The *Grámbártá Prakashiká* of the 10th February, in an article on Canals, makes the following remarks:—There is not, perhaps, sufficient sympathy felt by the higher authorities with the condition of the subjects, who live entirely on grain. This is well illustrated by the indifference of Government to remove the obstructions to the natural drainage of the country, occasioned by the Eastern Bengal Railway line. Rice fields have been turned into swamps or waste lands. Cultivation has thus been seriously interfered with, and malarious fever generated. A large extent of land in sub-division Goalundo labours under these disadvantages. Government is besought to cause the excavation of a canal in the village of Baruria from the Road Cess Funds, and thus reclaim the large extent of this waste land.

GRAMBARTA  
PRAKASHIKA,  
February 10th, 1875.

3. The same paper remarks, that a thorough acquaintance with the condition of the country reveals a greater number of murders and robberies committed than are mentioned in official reports, and the state of affairs seems more unsatisfactory than it is represented to be. The reason why so many crimes are daily perpetrated, while the offenders go unpunished, is to be found in the laxity of the existing police; who do not keep up a persistent search for criminals, except only for a few days after the perpetration of the crime. Government should therefore appoint a distinct body of officials to detect offenders and bring them to justice. Such a course will rouse the present police to greater activity, and impose a constant check on abandoned characters.

GRAMBARTA  
PRAKASHIKA.

4. In an editorial of considerable length, the *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 9th February, makes the following observations on the proposal to introduce a Bill into the Bengal Legislative Council for the appointment of managers in joint undivided estates:—The laws of succession among the Hindus and Mahomedans, who constitute the majority of the population of Bengal, make it in a manner impossible that estates should remain undivided. A want of unity also among the Bengalis is another cause of this state of things. There are few instances found in Bengal of a single estate owned by one zemindar; estates are usually joint property, and each landholder zealously watches over his own interests. The contentions and differences among the ryots are submitted to the arbitration of the joint-holders, who derive some profit from them; and are therefore ready to foment these differences, and after bringing the more influential of their tenantry under their influence by remission of their rents, or making them participators in the proceeds of extortion, they extort abwabs from petty

HINDU RANJIKÁ,  
February 9th 1875.

ryots. On the occurrence of disputes among these, the co-sharers espouse the cause of different parties, and put others to extreme trouble and inconvenience. Similarly, the ryots stick to the cause of different co-sharers and thus expose themselves to the ire of the opposing parties; when these latter, as is frequently the case, happen to quarrel with each other. Owing to this fact, agriculture remains at a very low ebb in Bengal; and the tenantry is robbed of crops which they have grown with care and extreme labour. They are made to pay their rents more than once to the co-sharers. Add to this the sums that are to be paid to the omlahs and others, and the misery of the ryots may be conceived. Among co-sharers, those who are less influential than others, and especially females or minors, have to endure no small degree of annoyance and distress. The stronger party encourages the ryots even to set aside their claims, and they are in a manner dispossessed of their estates. When the sharers are all equally powerful, each seeks to increase the number of his adherents by enlisting as many of the ryots, as are willing, into his service, and exempting them from the payment of rent, or any illegal cess, to any of his co-sharers. Litigation is frequent, but often fails to secure justice to the weak. Since such is the condition of the ryots and the landlords in a joint undivided estate, it is proper to consider whether the proposed appointment of a manager on their behalf will succeed in removing the evils complained of. The proposal is not a new one. It is only reviving the principles laid down in sections 23 and 25 of Act VIII of 1793, which were, on the representations of the zemindars, repealed by section 2 of Act XVII of 1805. In the adoption of this measure, no attention was paid to the interests of the ryots; those of the zemindars alone being paramount. A more favorable view is now taken of these matters; and Government, convinced of their distresses, seeks to revert to the legislation of 1793. The appointment of a manager, it is believed, will obviate the difficulties to which both tenants and landlords are subjected, by investing the management in a single individual, and so divesting the co-sharers of all power to act. But slight reflection will be sufficient to shew, that the proposed measure will injure the zemindars to a greater extent than it will benefit the tenantry, or they would not have objected to and got the repeal of the sections before noted. It does not behove the rulers to create difficulties for one class of its subjects, in order to remove those of another. The appointment of managers will subject them to greater expense; for they have hitherto made the collection of their rents by tehsildars on small pay. Moreover the managers also will in all probability take to levying illegal cesses on their own accounts, if they are not highly paid. They will, it may be feared in some cases, side with the tenantry; and accepting bribes, make arbitrary settlements to the loss of the zemindars. It will be also found difficult to deal with instances in which the ryots voluntarily pay the *abwabs*, on the consideration of low rents demanded from them. In these cases, the manager, ceasing to realise the payment of the *abwabs* and obtaining only the rents, will be securing an advantage to the ryots, while he makes the zemindar a loser. He will have, moreover, frequently to institute lawsuits for arrears of rent, owing to his inability, according to law, to press the ryots for payment. It will appear from these considerations that the proposed measure will not benefit the zemindars, while it will prove more or less oppressive to the tenantry. The editor believes, a far more effectual plan to secure the end proposed is to extend the operation of the Butwarra laws to all classes of zemindars, by reducing the stamp fees and placing it within the reach of all. The present state of these laws is extremely unsatisfactory. Every facility should be afforded the landlords for partitioning their estates.

5. The *Bishwa Dūt* of the 17th February observes that Mr. Grant Duff might have largely benefited the people of India, and enlarged his experience of the country, if he had spent some days in the mofussil, and not contented himself, as he did, by visiting only the chief cities and men. As it is, his visit may rather be productive of injurious than beneficial consequences to India; for the favorable reception accorded to him in the metropolis and the other chief cities of the empire may lead him some day to expatiate on its wealth in Parliament, and the capability of the country to bear any amount of taxation. A trip through the mofussil, with its poverty-stricken people, would have shewn him a different picture.

BISHWA DUT,  
February 17th, 1875.

6. The same paper regrets to find that the Board of Revenue, in its capacity of manager of the estates under the Court of Wards, advocates the levying of illegal cesses and *abwabs*, like other zemindars, from the ryots. This is extremely reprehensible in them. The Board should strictly abide by the law as long as it is in force, no matter what may be the consequences resulting from such a course.

BISHWA DUT.

7. The *Amrita Bazar Patrikā* of the 11th February prefaces his review of the just published Administration Report of Bengal with the following observations:—With all his faults, Sir George Campbell was a man of remarkable force of character. The impulse which he gave to his mode of administration is but partially counteracted by his successor with all his exertions. While the former sought to ruin the zemindars by espousing the cause of the tenantry, Sir Richard Temple cultivates friendly feelings with them. While the former would never heed any counsel, the latter never rejects it. The one was violent and undaunted by any difficulties, the other is a quiet and peaceful man. It was a pleasure with Sir George Campbell to wound the people's feelings; his successor never does it intentionally. Still Sir Richard Temple is not enabled to carry out his own views. He desires to do things in his own way; the impulse given by his predecessor hurries him over to another. Hence in all that he has done up to this time, an irregularity and incompleteness prevails; and the people are kept in suspense as to the effects that are likely to follow from his administrative measures and his claim to their respect. He will remain four years more in the country, and he will have time to develop his beneficent views.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
February 11th, 1875.

8. The same paper of the 18th February concludes an article on the Lunatic Asylums in Bengal, with the observation, that it is gratifying to find the Lieutenant-Governor recommending a mild treatment of the lunatics, in his present Administration Report.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
February 18th, 1875.

9. The *Education Gazette* of the 12th February expresses the highest satisfaction in that Bengal is blessed with two generous rulers—Lord Northbrook and Sir Richard Temple—who really love their subjects. Sir Richard Temple is an advocate of high education, and looks on those committed to his charge with favorable and loving eyes. He has vindicated the loyalty of the Native Press; and expressed his appreciation of vernacular literature and authors in his Administration Report, and by inviting the latter to an evening party at Belvidere. These wise acts deserve all praise.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
February 12th, 1875.

10. The *Ehārāt Sangskārah* of the 12th February, in commenting on the invitation of native authors to Belvidere, says that His Honor has, by this wise act, inaugurated a great fact in the just administration of the country by the English. He has laid the foundation of friendly relations between the English and Natives; and found out the way of making the English

BHARAT  
SANGSKARAH,  
February 12th, 1875.

Government popular with them. It is to be desired that other rulers will imitate him in this.

BHARAT  
SANGSKARAK,  
February 12th, 1875.

11. The same paper, while generally approving of the views of His Honor on primary schools, as embodied in his recent minute on the subject, remarks that these institutions should be entirely made over to the charge of the Education Department, and that it would be enough if the Magistrates were only at intervals to attend to their working. By a perusal of the minute, the people are also convinced that the cause of high education is not in danger, and that His Honor is favorable to it.

SAPTARIK SAMACHAR,  
February 13th, 1875.

12. The *Saptarik Samachar* of the 13th February observes the following, in reference to the objection of the British Indian Association to the proposal of the Lieutenant-Governor, that all cases, in which second appeals will not be allowed by the Civil Appeals' Bill, should be tried by a composite bench consisting of the District Judge, the Additional Judge, and the Subordinate or the Small Cause Court Judges, on the ground that the Subordinate Judges, as their name denotes, are under the authority of the District Judges, and cannot, therefore, be expected to pronounce independent judgments on the cases that come before them. The remark of the Association is very pertinent. Unless the Subordinate Judges are vested by Government with equal powers with the District Judges, no good will arise from the proposed arrangement.

HINDU HITOISHINI,  
February 13th, 1875.

13. The *Hindu Hitoishini* of the 13th February regrets, that a false alarm has been spread among the English nation by the *Times*' article on the meeting of Scindia and Holkar. An occurrence which should be hailed with pleasure is viewed with feelings of fear and jealousy. It is to be deplored that the English nation, in spite of its vast army, and repeated assurances and acts of loyalty from the natives, should entertain such needless fears.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
February 14th, 1875.

14. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 14th February observes with gratification, that native authors have been highly honored by the Lieutenant-Governor's invitation to an evening party at Belvedere; and that His Honor has had recourse to the most proper way of successfully governing a kingdom by securing the affection of the subjects.

SADHARANI,  
February 14th, 1875.

15. In an editorial on the Freedom of the Press in India, the *Sadharani* of the 14th February remarks that, if the British Government be wise, it will never interfere with the liberty of the Press, nor be displeased with the comments that are always made in the newspapers on public men and measures. These comments may not be agreeable; but they serve to shew the current of public opinion,—a proper knowledge of which is indispensable to the safety of a Government. A free Press acts as a safety valve for the propagation of public opinion. It should never be interfered with. The newspapers should be all impartially encouraged; for the greater their numbers, the more the country is benefited.)

SOM PRAKASH,  
February 15th, 1875.

16. Adverting to the gradually increasing revenues from the Postal Department, the *Som Prakash* of the 15th February remarks that, if the following obstacles be removed, the income from this source will greatly expand:—(1) In many villages facilities do not exist for posting letters. Their number would greatly increase if letter boxes were put up in every village, and letters be thence taken only thrice in a week to the nearest post office. (2) Letters are not punctually delivered; the peons do not deliver them till they have remained on their hands for five or six days; and even then they demand money for their trouble. The deputy post-masters do not heed these complaints when made to them. (3) Postage stamps are not

procurable in all post offices in the mofussil. (4) The zemindari dāk should be abolished, as it does more evil than good, being only an engine of oppression on the ryots. All purposes will be answered by establishing letter boxes in every village.

17. In a letter communicated to the same paper, the writer objects to the appointment of Mr. Croft as an Inspector of Schools in Behar, on the ground that he has no knowledge of Urdu; his proper place was at the Dacca College, where, as the Principal, his extensive learning might have been well utilised. The duties of an Inspector do not require much learning, in those that exercise them. Men possessing a competent share of learning, and a large amount of experience in local matters, and of the people, are well qualified for this work. Mr. Hand, of Berhampore College, is a man of the above description, and he has every claim to the appointment of an Inspector.

SOM PRASAD,  
February 15th, 1875.

18. The same paper seconds the objections put forward by the British Indian Association to the proposal of the Lieutenant-Governor, to cause the trial of cases, which will not, under the Civil Appeals' Bill, be allowed the privilege of second appeals, by a composite Bench of Judges and their subordinates. The editor moreover suggests that it would be better to throw out the Civil Appeals' Bill altogether.

SOM PRASAD.

19. The same paper protests against the conduct of Government in not allowing the Guicowar's solicitors the necessary documents and sufficient funds to conduct his defence, and causing the arrest of three persons who were procuring signatures to a memorial intended to have been presented to the Viceroy on behalf of Mulharao.

SOM PRASAD.

20. The *Sahachar* of the 15th February, in a lengthy editorial on the Pension Rules, objects to what is called the 55 years' rule, on the ground that competent men, who are perfectly able to work, are obliged to retire on pension as soon as they have attained this age. This is unjust. Ability to carry on work is what should be taken into consideration in the case of a Government officer, and not his age. This rule should be amended.

SAHACHAR,  
February 15th, 1875.

21. The same paper regrets to note that sufficient funds and necessary documents are not given by Government to the Guicowar's solicitors for conducting his defence. Moreover the arbitrary manner in which Sir L. Pelly is dealing with the Guicowar's property before his trial is not at all just. Lord Northbrook is besought to see that no injustice is done to the Guicowar.

SAHACHAR.

22. The same paper, in a highly eulogistic article on the Lieutenant-Governor, dwells on his educational measures and the honor he has conferred on the native authors. The editor takes this opportunity of requesting His Honor to confer the title of "Star of India" on Pandit Ishwara Chandra Vidyāsāgara, the father of the present Bengali Literature, and thus gratify the public.

SAHACHAR.

23. In an article of great length, the *Samāchār Chandrikā* of the 15th February complains that spirituous liquors are sold to the public of Calcutta after the prescribed hours through the connivance of the police. (1.) The various dispensaries sell spirituous liquors. (2.) The wine shops have private entrances, which are used by the customers after the stated hours. (3.) Liquor is sold in the houses of prostitutes. (4.) Late at night, wine vendors sell liquor publicly before the houses of prostitutes. The attention of the authorities is drawn to the matter.

SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
February 15th, 1875.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 20th February 1875.

JOHN ROBINSON,  
Government Bengali Translator.

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the  
20th February 1875.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Madhyastha" ...	Calcutta ...	Monthly ...	Pous 1281 (B.S.)
2	"Bhārat Shramjibī" ...	Barāhanagar ...	Ditto ...	Agrahāyan 1281 (B.S.)
3	"Satya Prakāsh" ...	Bānaripārā, Burrisāl ...	Bi-monthly ...	1st fortnight of Māgh 1281 (B.S.)
4	"Ajījan Nāhār" ...	Lalhinipārā, Koostea ...	Ditto ...	22nd January.
5	"Bhārat Darpan" ...	Chinsurah ...	Ditto ...	12th February.
6	"Hitasādhini" ...	Burrisāl ...	Weekly ...	19th January and 2nd February.
7	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh" ...	Kākinīā, Rungpore ...	Ditto ...	4th ditto.
8	"Burrisāl Bārtābaha" ...	Burrisāl ...	Ditto ...	10th ditto.
9	"Grāmbārtā Prakāshikā" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	10th ditto.
10	"Hindu Ranjikā" ...	Bauleah, Rājshāhye ...	Ditto ...	10th ditto.
11	"Bishwa Dūt" ...	Kālighāt, Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	10th ditto.
12	"Amrita Bazar Patrikā" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	11th and 18th February.
13	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	12th February.
14	"Bhārat Sangskārak" ...	Harināvi, 24-Pergunnahs ...	Ditto ...	12th ditto.
15	"Prachārikā" ...	Burdwan ...	Ditto ...	5th and 12th February.
16	"Sāptāhik Samāchār" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	13th February.
17	"Hindu Hitoishini" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	13th ditto.
18	"Dacca Prakāsh" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	14th ditto.
19	"Sādhārānī" ...	Chinsurah ...	Ditto ...	14th ditto.
20	"Howrah Hitakarī" ...	Bethar, Howrah ...	Ditto ...	14th ditto.
21	"Som Prakāsh" ...	Chāngripottāh, 24-Pergahs. ...	Ditto ...	15th ditto.
22	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	15th ditto.
23	"Sulabha Samāchār" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	16th ditto.
24	"Sāptāhik Sambād" ...	Bhowanipore, Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	19th ditto.
25	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ...	Calcutta ...	Bi-weekly ...	8th and 15th February.
26	"Sambād Prabhākar" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	5th to 17th ditto.
27	"Sambād Pūrnachandro- daya." ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	12th to 19th ditto.
28	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Ditto ...	Weekly ...	13th February.
29	"Behār Bandhu" (in Hindi) ...	Patna ...	Ditto ...	16th ditto.
30	"Jām-Jehān-numā (in Per- sian)." ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	19th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.